



FALCONRY LAWS AND REGULATIONS

This document is designed to provide essential information about falconry. It **does not** provide complete coverage of all falconry laws and regulations.

Although this document contains excerpts from the Fish and Game Code, Title 14, of the California Code of Regulations and Part 21, Title 50, of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) it is the licensee's responsibility to know and obey **all** laws and regulations in effect while he/she is participating in falconry activity. Changes to any code may occur at any time during the year.

Any discrepancies between this document and the code(s) from which it was prepared will be enforced and adjudicated according to the official code(s) in effect on the date the activity takes place.

Fish and Game Code Excerpts

§395. Regulations relating to falconry; licensing.

(a) The commission may adopt regulations for the possession or training, and the capture, importation, exportation, or intrastate transfer, of any bird in the orders Falconiformes and Strigiformes (birds-of-prey) used in the practice of falconry and may authorize the issuance and provide for the revocation of licenses and permits to persons for the practice of falconry.

(b) It is unlawful to capture, possess, or train any bird in the orders Falconiformes and Strigiformes (birds-of-prey) in the practice of falconry without procuring a falconry license.

§396. Licensing fee.

(a) The falconry license shall be valid for a license year beginning on March 1 and ending on the last day of February of the next succeeding calendar year. If issued after March 1 of any year, a falconry license is valid for the remainder of that license year.

(b) The fee for a falconry license shall be as follows:

(1) For the license year beginning March 1, 1986, the fee is thirty dollars (\$30).

(2) For the license years beginning on or after March 1, 1987, the fee is a base fee of thirty dollars (\$30) as adjusted under Section 713.

(c) Upon the filing of an affidavit showing the loss or destruction of an unexpired falconry license and the payment of a fee of eight dollars (\$8), a replacement license may be issued for the remainder of the license period.

California Code of Regulations, Title 14 Excerpts

§670. Practice of Falconry.

(a) General Provisions. No person shall engage in any falconry activity except as provided by the Fish and Game Code and regulations provided herein. Applicable regulations adopted by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and published in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 21 (Revised 9/14/89) are hereby incorporated and made a part of these regulations. Federal regulations shall be made available upon request from the Department of Fish and Game License and Revenue Branch, 3211 S Street, Sacramento, CA 95816.

(b) Take of Game or Nongame Birds or Mammals. Any person using raptors to take game or nongame birds or mammals shall abide by all laws and regulations related to hunting, including but not limited to licenses, seasons, bag limits, and hunting hours. Any protected bird or mammal inadvertently taken by a raptor must be removed from the raptor, as soon as practical, and left at the site.

(c) Additional State Regulations. State regulations included herein complement current federal regulations and are cross-referenced by use of the respective federal Title 50 CFR section numbers boldfaced and placed in parentheses.

(1) LICENSING.

(A) Application for License. The department shall provide information on application procedures. This information may be obtained by contacting the department (address given in subsection (a) above).

(B) Co-sign Requirement. **(§21.28 CFR)** Persons under the age of 18 shall have a parent or guardian co-sign their license application.

(C) Substitution of Experience. **(§21.29 CFR)** The department shall consider an applicant's experience acquired in another state or country when evaluating an

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application for any class of license.

(D) Application Fee. In addition to the fee required by Fish and Game Code Section 396, the department shall charge an application fee. The base fee for this application is \$7.50 as of January 1, 1993 (Note: This fee shall be charged effective July 7, 1993) and shall be adjusted annually per Fish and Game Code Section 713.

(E) Examination Requirement. **(§21.29 CFR)**

1. Minimum Score. Persons applying for their first license or for renewal of a license that expired prior to January 1, 1978, must correctly answer at least 80% of the questions on an examination provided and administered by the department.

2. Reexamination for Failing Score. **(§21.29 CFR)** Any applicant who fails to pass the examination may take another examination no earlier than three months from the date of the prior examination.

3. Substitutions of Passing Score from Another State. **(§21.29 CFR)** Applicants who provide documentation of having successfully passed a federally approved examination in a state listed in Section 21.29(k), CFR, will not be required to take the test.

(F) Classes of Licenses. **(§21.29 CFR)** Licenses will be issued in three classes, apprentice, general, and master, only to persons who meet all requirements and qualifications described in these regulations. The department may issue the class of license equal to that of the most recent license issued to a person from a state listed in Section 21.29(k), CFR.

(G) Suspension, Revocation or Denial of License. **(§21.29 CFR)** The department may suspend, revoke, or deny issuance or renewal of any falconry license if the applicant or licensee either fails to comply with any requirement of these regulations or has been convicted of a violation of any falconry regulations, including such regulations of a state listed in Section 21.29(k), CFR. For the purpose of this subsection, violation of a general hunting regulation is not a violation of a falconry regulation. An applicant or licensee whose license has been suspended, revoked, or denied may appeal to the Commission.

(H) Notification of Termination of Sponsorship. **(§21.29 CFR)** A sponsor shall immediately notify the department in writing (address given in subsection (a) above) in the event of termination of sponsorship for a licensee. The person requiring the sponsor shall acquire a new sponsor within 60 days of the receipt of the notification by the department. Failure to comply with this subsection will result in loss of qualifying time from the date sponsorship was terminated and no subsequent license will be issued until all requirements have been fulfilled.

(I) Report Requirement for Apprentices. **(§21.29 CFR)** Apprentice licensees must complete and submit a report of progress on a form approved by the department (FG 362 (9/95), which is incorporated by reference herein). This report must be signed and dated by both the licensee and sponsor. The report will be used to determine qualifying experience for future licenses.

(J) Department Inspection and Approval of Equipment and Housing. **(§21.29 CFR)** The equipment and housing required by these regulations shall be inspected and approved by the department prior to the issuance of a license, except the department may authorize a sponsor to inspect and certify that the equipment and housing of apprentice applicants meets or exceeds the minimum standards required by these regulations. Equipment or housing that does not meet the minimum standards required by these regulations shall not be certified by a sponsor. The department may enter the premises of any licensee at any reasonable hour to inspect all housing, equipment, or raptors possessed by the licensee, or to inspect, audit, or copy any permit, book, or record required to be kept by these regulations.

(2) AUTHORIZATION.

(A) Authorization of Licensed Nonresidents. **(§21.29 CFR)** Nonresidents licensed to practice falconry in a state listed in Section 21.29(k), CFR, are authorized to practice falconry in California. Citizens from another country are authorized to practice falconry in California only in accordance with a permit issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. (See subsection (c)(2)(F) below for importation).

(B) Nonresident License Not Valid for Resident. **(§21.29 CFR)** Residents are not authorized to possess raptors or practice falconry by a license issued by another state or country.

(C) Temporary Transfer of Raptor. **(§21.29 CFR)** Any licensee who allows another person to temporarily possess any raptor as authorized by sections 21.28(d)(6) and 21.29(j)(4), CFR, shall mail a copy of completed federal Form 3-186A and a copy of the statement authorizing temporary possession to the department (address given in subsection (a) above) on the day the bird is transferred.

(D) Apprentice Restriction. **(§21.29 CFR)** Except as provided in subsection (c)(2)(E) below, apprentice licensees may only take or possess American kestrels (*Falco sparverius*) or red-tailed hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*).

(E) Possession of Captive Bred Raptors from Rehabilitation Facilities. **(§21.29 CFR)** All licensees may possess and use birds acquired from department approved rehabilitation facilities or legally acquired captive bred birds.

(F) Importation of Raptors. **(§21.29 CFR)** Licensees may import raptors for falconry only if they submit written authority to export raptors from the originating state or country with the department's copy of federal Form 3-186A. Nonresident licensees from a state listed in Section 21.29(k), CFR, and resident licensees who take their birds out of state and are returning to California, are exempt from this requirement. Citizens from another country may import raptors under the authority of a permit issued by the federal government, (see §21.21 CFR).

(G) Possession of Infertile Eggs. **(§21.29 CFR)** Infertile eggs laid by a licensee's bird may be possessed if the licensee notifies the department (address given in subsection (a) above), in writing within 48 hours after the egg is laid.

(3) BANDING.

(A) Prohibition on Removal of Bands. **(§21.29 CFR)**

Raptor bands may not be removed from raptors except by a department employee or a person authorized by the department. The loss or removal of any band must be reported to the issuing office on federal Form 3-186A within five (5) working days of the loss or removal of the band.

(B) Prohibition on Defacing Band. **(§21.29 CFR)** The alteration, counterfeiting or defacing of a band is prohibited except that licensees may remove the rear tab or may smooth any imperfect surface provided the integrity of the band and numbering are not affected.

(4) TAKING.

(A) Possession of Valid Falconry License Required For Take. **(§21.29 CFR)** Only persons with a valid falconry license in possession may take a raptor from the wild. Raptors may not be taken in any state or national park. (Nonresidents see subsection (c)(4)(B) below for additional requirements)

(B) Nonresident Provisions. **(§21.29 CFR)** Nonresidents licensed to practice falconry in a state listed in Section 21.29(k), CFR, shall apply to the department (address given in subsection (a) above) for a permit to take raptors in California. Application shall be made on form FG 364 (1/96), (Request for Capture), which is incorporated by reference herein, and which shall be provided by the department upon request. If unsuccessful, the permit (form FG 364a (1/96), which is incorporated by reference herein) shall be returned to the department within five days after the expiration date (address given in subsection (a) above). The fee for the permit is \$182.00 per bird as adjusted annually pursuant to Section 713 of the Fish and Game Code. Nonresidents shall only take raptors from the wild in accordance with the conditions of the permit.

Reporting Take Location. Permittee shall notify the department within 5 days of take of a bird from the wild, on form FG 364a (1/96), provided by the department. Such notification shall include the county of take and a description of the site in Township, Range, and Section format. A copy of a topographic map, with the capture site clearly indicated, shall be mailed to the department at the address indicated on the form (address given in subsection (a) above) within 14 days of take. The location reporting requirement is for all species listed in subsection (c)(4)(C) below, except red-tailed hawk, American kestrel, and great horned owl.

(C) Raptors Approved for Take From the Wild. **(§21.29 CFR)** Only the following raptors may be taken from the wild: Northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) (also see subsection (c)(4)(D) below), Cooper's hawk (*A. cooperii*), sharp-shinned hawk (*A. striatus*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), ferruginous hawk (*B. regalis*), merlin (*Falco columbarius*), American kestrel (*F. sparverius*), prairie falcon (*F. mexicanus*) and great horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*).

Reporting Take Location. Permittee shall notify the department within 5 days of take of a bird from the wild, on form FG363 (9/95), which is incorporated by reference herein, provided by the department. Such notification shall include the county of take and a description of the site in Township, Range, and Section format. A copy of a

topographic map, with the capture site clearly indicated, shall be mailed to the department at the address indicated on the form (address given in subsection (a) above) within 14 days of take. The location reporting requirement is for all species listed in subsection (c)(4)(C) above, except red-tailed hawk, American kestrel, and great horned owl.

(D) Prohibition on Take of Northern Goshawks. **(§21.29 CFR)** Northern goshawks may not be taken from the wild at any time in the Lake Tahoe Basin as described below:

Those portions of Placer, El Dorado, and Alpine counties lying within a line beginning at the north end of Lake Tahoe, at the California-Nevada state line approximately four miles north of Stateline Point in the near vicinity of Mt. Baldy; westerly along the Tahoe Divide between the Lake Tahoe and Truckee River drainages to the intersection of the north line of Section 36, T17N, R17E, MDM; west along said north section line to the section corner common to section 25, 26, 35, and 36, T17N, R17E, MDM; south approximately one mile along the common section line; southwesterly to the intersection of the Tahoe Divide and Highway 267 in the near vicinity of Brockway Summit; southwesterly in the near vicinity of the Tahoe Divide to Mt. Pluto; south to Mt. Watson; westerly approximately two miles to Painted Rock; southerly approximately two miles along the Tahoe Divide to the intersection of Highway 89; southwesterly along the Tahoe Divide to Ward Peak; southerly approximately 30 miles along the Tahoe Divide to a point on the Echo Lakes Road; southeasterly along said road to Old Highway 50; southeasterly along Old Highway 50 to the intersection of the Echo Summit Tract Road; southerly along said road to Highway 50; easterly along Highway 50 to the intersection of the South Echo Summit Tract Road; southerly along said road to the Tahoe Divide; southerly along the Tahoe Divide past the Alpine county line to Red Lake Peak; northerly along the Tahoe Divide past Monument Peak to the California-Nevada state line; north on the state line to the point of beginning. NOTE: the area described above includes the entire basin of Lake Tahoe within California. The geographic boundary of the Lake Tahoe Basin is also an area encompassed by the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit which is administered by the U.S. Forest Service. The Forest Service office is located in South Lake Tahoe, and maps depicting the boundary may be purchased there or obtained by mail. For ordering information call (916) 573-2600.

(E) Approved Methods of Take. **(§21.29 CFR)** Raptors may be taken by trap or net which do not injure the birds. All snare type traps must be attended at all times. All other traps must be identified with the name and address of the licensee and checked at least once every 12 hours.

(F) Eyas Bird Restriction. **(§21.29 CFR)** Eyas birds may be taken only by general or master licensees, and only from May 20 through July 15. No more than two eyas birds may be taken by the same licensee in any one year. In no case may all eyas birds be taken from any one nest. At least one eyas shall be left in a nest at all times.

(G) Passage Bird Restriction. **(§21.29 CFR)** Passage birds may only be taken from October 1 through January 31, except that a legally marked raptor which was lost or

escaped may be taken at any time.

(H) Definition of Replacement Period. (§21.29 CFR) The 12 month period for replacing birds begins on March 1, of each year.

Title 50, CFR, Part 21 Excerpts

50 CFR 21 MIGRATORY BIRD PERMITS (10/1/01 Edition)

§ 21.28 Falconry permits.

(a) *Permit requirements.* A falconry permit is required before any person may take, possess, transport, sell, purchase, barter, offer to sell, purchase, or barter raptors for falconry purposes.

(b) *Application procedures.*

(1) An applicant who wishes to practice falconry in a State listed in Sec. 21.29(k) of this part and which has been designated as a participant in a cooperative Federal/State permit application program may submit an application for a falconry permit to the appropriate agency of that State. Each such application must incorporate a completed official form approved by the Service and must include in addition to the general information required by part 13 of this subchapter all of the following:

(i) The number of raptors the applicant possesses at the time the application is submitted, including the species, age (if known), sex (if known), date of acquisition, and source of each;

(ii) A check or money order made payable to "U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service" in the amount of the application fee listed in Sec. 13.11(d) of this subchapter.

(iii) An original, signed certification concerning the validity of the information provided in the application in the form set forth in Sec. 13.12(a)(5).

(iv) Any additional information requested by the State to which the application is submitted.

(2) Upon receipt of a joint application by a State listed in Sec. 21.29(k) as a participant in a cooperative Federal/State permit application program, the State will process the application for a State falconry permit in accordance with its own procedures. A copy of the application, the check or money order for Federal permit fees, and the original, signed certification required by paragraph (b)(1)(iii) of this section will be forwarded to the issuing office of the Service designated by Sec. 13.11(b) of this subchapter. If the State decides to issue a falconry permit based upon the application, a copy of the permit will also be forwarded to the appropriate issuing office of the Service.

(3) An applicant who wishes to practice falconry in a State listed in Sec. 21.29(k) of this subchapter, but which does not participate in a cooperative Federal/State permit application program must submit a written application for a falconry permit to the issuing office designated by Sec. 13.11(b) of this subchapter. Each application must contain the general information and certification required by Sec. 13.12(a) of this subchapter plus a copy of a valid State falconry permit issued to the applicant by a State listed in Sec. 21.19(k) of this subchapter.

(c) *Issuance criteria.* Upon receiving an application completed in accordance with paragraph (b) of this section that meets all requirements of this part, the Director will issue a permit. In addition to meeting the general criteria in Sec. 13.21(b), the applicant must have a valid State falconry permit issued by a State listed in Sec. 21.29(k) of this subchapter.

(d) *Permit conditions.* In addition to the general conditions set forth in part 13 of this subchapter, every permit issued under this section shall be subject to the following special conditions:

(1) A permittee may not take, transport, or possess a golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) unless authorized in writing under Sec. 22.24 of this subchapter.

(2) A permit issued under this section is not valid unless the permittee has a valid State falconry permit issued by a State listed in Sec. 21.29(k) of this subchapter.

(3) A permittee may not take, possess, transport, sell, purchase, barter, or transfer any raptor for falconry purposes except under authority of a Federal falconry permit issued under this section and in compliance with the Federal falconry standards set forth in Sec. 21.29 of this subchapter.

(4) No permittee may take, purchase, receive, or otherwise acquire, sell, barter, transfer, or otherwise dispose of any raptor unless such permittee submits a form 3-186A (Migratory Bird Acquisition/Disposition Report), completed in accordance with the instructions on the form, to the issuing office within five (5) calendar days of any such transaction.

(5) No raptor may be possessed under authority of a falconry permit unless the permittee has a properly completed form 3-186A (Migratory Bird Acquisition/Disposition Report) for each bird possessed, except as provided in paragraph (d)(4) of this section.

(6) A raptor possessed under authority of a falconry permit may be temporarily held by a person other than the permittee for maintenance and care for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days. The raptor must be accompanied at all times by a properly completed form 3-186A (Migratory Bird Acquisition/Disposition Report) designating the person caring for the raptor as the possessor of record and by a signed, dated statement from the permittee authorizing the temporary possession.

(7) A permittee may not take, possess, or transport any peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*), or Harris hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*) unless such bird is banded either by a seamless numbered band provided by the Service or by a permanent, non-reusable band provided by the Service.

(i) Any peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*), or Harris hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*) taken from the wild must be reported to the issuing office within five (5) days of taking and must be banded with a permanent, non-reusable band provided by the Service. No raptor removed from the wild may be banded with a seamless numbered band.

(ii) The loss or removal of any band must be reported to the issuing office within five (5) working days of the loss.

The lost band must be replaced by a permanent, non-reusable band supplied by the Service. A form 3-186A (Migratory Bird Acquisition/Disposition Report) must be filed in accordance with paragraph (d)(4) of this section reporting the loss of the band and rebanding.

(8) A permittee may not sell, purchase, barter, or offer to sell, purchase or barter any raptor unless the raptor is marked on the metatarsus by a seamless, numbered band supplied by the Service.

(9) A permittee may not propagate raptors without prior acquisition of a valid raptor propagation permit issued under section 21.30 of this subchapter.

(e) *Term of permit.* A falconry permit issued or renewed under this part expires on the date designated on the face of the permit unless amended or revoked, but the term of the permit shall not exceed three (3) years from the date of issuance or renewal. [54 FR 38152, Sept. 14, 1989]

§ 21.29 Federal falconry standards.

(a) *Before you can practice falconry in any State.* You cannot take, possess, transport, sell, purchase, barter, or offer to sell, purchase, or barter any raptor for falconry purposes, in any State unless the State allows the practice of falconry, and the State has submitted copies of its laws and regulations governing the practice of falconry to us (Director), and we have determined that they meet or exceed the Federal falconry standards established in this section. If you are a Federal falconry permittee, you can possess and transport for falconry purposes a lawfully possessed raptor through States that do not allow falconry or meet Federal falconry standards so long as the raptors remain in transit in interstate commerce. The States that are in compliance with Federal falconry standards are listed in paragraph (k) of this section.

(b) *More restrictive State laws.* Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent a State from making and enforcing laws or regulations not inconsistent with the standards contained in any convention between the United States and any foreign country for the protection of raptors or with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and which shall give further protection to raptors.

(c) *What is the process for Federal approval of a State program?* Any State that wishes to allow the practice of falconry must submit to the Director of the Service a copy of the laws and regulations that govern the practice of falconry in the State. If we determine that they meet or exceed the Federal standards, which are established by this section, we will publish a notice in the Federal Register adding the State to the list of approved States in paragraph (k) of this section. Any State that was listed in paragraph (k) prior to September 14, 1989, is considered to be in compliance with our standards.

(d) *Permit.* State laws or regulations shall provide that a valid State falconry permit from either that State or another State meeting Federal falconry standards and listed in paragraph (k) of this section is required before any person may take, possess, or transport a raptor for falconry purposes or practice falconry in that State.

(e) *Classes of permits.* States may have any number of classes of falconry permits provided the standards are not less restrictive than the following:

(1) *Apprentice (or equivalent) class.*

(i) Permittee shall be at least 14 years old;

(ii) A sponsor who is a holder of a General or Master Falconry Permit or equivalent class is required for the first two years in which an apprentice permit is held, regardless of the age of the permittee. A sponsor may not have more than three apprentices at any one time;

(iii) Permittee shall not possess more than one raptor and may not obtain more than one raptor for replacement during any 12-month period; and

(iv) Permittee shall possess only the following raptors which must be taken from the wild: an American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), a red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), a red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), or, in Alaska only, a goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*).

(2) *General (or equivalent) class.*

(i) A permittee shall be at least 18 years old;

(ii) A permittee shall have at least two years experience in the practice of falconry at the apprentice level or its equivalent;

(iii) A permittee may not possess more than two raptors and may not obtain more than two raptors for replacement birds during any 12-month period; and

(iv) A permittee may not take, transport, or possess any golden eagle or any species listed as threatened or endangered in part 17 of this sub chapter.

(3) *Master (or equivalent) class.*

(i) An applicant shall have at least five years experience in the practice of falconry at the general class level or its equivalent.

(ii) A permittee may not possess more than three raptors and may not obtain more than two raptors taken from the wild for replacement birds during any 12-month period;

(iii) A permittee may not take any species listed as endangered in part 17 of this chapter, but may transport or possess such species in accordance with part 17 of this chapter.

(iv) A permittee may not take, transport, or possess any golden eagle for falconry purposes unless authorized in writing under Sec. 22.24 of this subchapter;

(v) A permittee may not take, in any twelve (12) month period, as part of the three-bird limitation, more than one raptor listed as threatened in part 17 of this chapter, and then only in accordance with part 17 of this chapter.

(f) *Examination.* State laws or regulations shall provide that before any State falconry permit is issued the applicant shall be required to answer correctly at least 80 percent of the questions on a supervised examination provided or approved by the Service and administered by the State, relating to basic biology, care, and handling of raptors, literature, laws, regulations or other appropriate subject matter.

(g) *Facilities and equipment.* State laws or regulations shall provide that before a State falconry permit is issued

the applicant's raptor housing facilities and falconry equipment shall be inspected and certified by a representative of the State wildlife department as meeting the following standards:

(1) *Facilities.* The primary consideration for raptor housing facilities whether indoors (mews) or outdoors (weathering area) is protection from the environment, predators, or undue disturbance. The applicant shall have the following facilities, except that depending upon climatic conditions, the issuing authority may require only one of the facilities described below.

(i) Indoor facilities (mews) shall be large enough to allow easy access for caring for the raptors housed in the facility. If more than one raptor is to be kept in the mews, the raptors shall be tethered or separated by partitions and the area for each bird shall be large enough to allow the bird to fully extend its wings. There shall be at least one window, protected on the inside by vertical bars, spaced narrower than the width of the bird's body, and a secure door that can be easily closed. The floor of the mews shall permit easy cleaning and shall be well drained. Adequate perches shall be provided.

(ii) Outdoor facilities (weathering area) shall be fenced and covered with netting or wire, or roofed to protect the birds from disturbance and attack by predators except that perches more than 6 ½ feet high need not be covered or roofed. The enclosed area shall be large enough to insure the birds cannot strike the fence when flying from the perch. Protection from excessive sun, wind, and inclement weather shall be provided for each bird. Adequate perches shall be provided.

(2) *Equipment.* The following items shall be in the possession of the applicant before he can obtain a permit or license:

(i) *Jesses*—At least 1 pair of Alymeri jesses or similar type constructed of pliable, high-quality leather or suitable synthetic material to be used when any raptor is flown free. (Traditional 1-piece jesses may be used on raptors when not being flown.);

(ii) *Leashes and swivels*—At least 1 flexible, weather-resistant leash and 1 strong swivel of acceptable falconry design;

(iii) *Bath container*—At least 1 suitable container, 2 to 6 inches deep and wider than the length of the raptor, for drinking and bathing for each raptor;

(iv) *Outdoor perches*—At least 1 weathering area perch of an acceptable design shall be provided for each raptor; and

(v) *Weighing device*—A reliable scale or balance suitable for weighing the raptor(s) held and graduated to increments of not more than ½ ounce (15 gram) shall be provided.

(3) *Maintenance.* All facilities and equipment shall be kept at or above the preceding standards at all times.

(4) *Transportation; temporary holding.* A raptor may be transported or held in temporary facilities which shall be provided with an adequate perch and protected from extreme temperatures and excessive disturbance, for a period not to exceed 30 days.

(h) *Marking.* All peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*), gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*), and Harris hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*) possessed for falconry purposes must be marked in accordance with the following provisions:

(1) Any peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*), or Harris hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*), except a captive bred raptor lawfully marked by a numbered, seamless band issued by the Service, must be banded with a permanent, non-reusable, numbered band issued by the Service.

(2) Any peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*), or Harris hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*) possessed for falconry purposes must be banded at all times in accordance with these standards. Loss or removal of any band must be reported to the issuing office within five (5) working days of the loss and must be replaced with a permanent, non-reusable, numbered band supplied by the Service.

(i) *Taking restrictions.* State laws or regulations shall provide the following restrictions on the taking of raptors from the wild:

(1) Young birds not yet capable of flight (eyasses) may only be taken by a General or Master Falconer during the period specified by the State and no more than two eyasses may be taken by the same permittee during the specified period.

(2) First-year (passage) birds may be taken only during the period specified by the State;

(3) In no case shall the total of all periods of taking of eyasses or passage birds exceed 180 days during a calendar year, except that a marked raptor may be retrapped at any time; and

(4) Only American kestrels (*Falco sparverius*) and great-horned owls (*Bubo virginianus*) may be taken when over one year old, except that any raptor other than endangered or threatened species taken under a depredation (or special purpose) permit may be used for falconry by General and Master falconers.

(j) *Other restrictions.* State laws or regulations shall provide the following restrictions or conditions:

(1) A person who possesses a lawfully acquired raptor before the enactment of these regulations and who fails to meet the permit requirements shall be allowed to retain the raptors. All such birds shall be identified with markers supplied by the Service and cannot be replaced if death, loss, release, or escape occurs.

(2) If you possessed raptors before January 15, 1976, the date these regulations were enacted, and you had more than the number allowed under your permit, you may retain the extra raptors. However, each of those birds must be identified with markers we supplied, and you cannot replace any birds, nor can you obtain any additional raptors, until the number in your possession is at least one fewer than the total number authorized by the class of permit you hold.

(3) A falconry permit holder shall obtain written authorization from the appropriate State wildlife department before any species not indigenous to that State is intentionally released to the wild, at which time the marker

from the released bird shall be removed and surrendered to the State wildlife department. The marker from an intentionally released bird which is indigenous to that State shall also be removed and surrendered to the State wildlife department. A standard Federal bird band shall be attached to such birds by the State or Service-authorized Federal bird bander whenever possible.

(4) A raptor possessed under authority of a falconry permit may be temporarily held by a person other than the permittee only if that person is otherwise authorized to possess raptors, and only if the raptor is accompanied at all times by the properly completed form 3-186A (Migratory Bird Acquisition/Disposition Report) designating the permittee as the possessor of record and by a signed, dated statement from the permittee authorizing the temporary possession.

(5) Feathers that are molted or those feathers from birds held in captivity that die, may be retained and exchanged by permittees only for imping purposes.

(k) *States meeting Federal falconry standards.* We have determined that the following States meet or exceed the minimum Federal falconry standards established in this section for regulating the taking, possession, and transportation of raptors for the purpose of falconry. The States that are participants in a cooperative Federal/State permit system are designated by an asterisk (*). *Alabama, *Alaska, Arizona, *Arkansas, *California, *Colorado, *Delaware, *Florida, *Georgia, *Idaho, *Illinois, *Indiana, *Iowa, *Kansas, *Kentucky, *Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, *Michigan, *Minnesota, *Mississippi, Missouri, *Montana, *Nebraska, *Nevada, *New Hampshire, *New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, *North Carolina, *North Dakota, *Ohio, Oklahoma, *Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, *South Carolina, *South Dakota, *Tennessee, Texas, Utah, *Vermont, *Virginia, *Washington, West Virginia, *Wisconsin, *Wyoming. [41 FR 2238, Jan. 15, 1976; 41 FR 8053, Feb. 24, 1976, as amended at 42 FR 42353, Aug. 23, 1977; 43 FR 968, Jan. 5, 1978; 43 FR 10566, Mar. 14, 1978; 43 FR 34150, Aug. 3, 1978; 43 FR 57606, Dec. 8, 1978; 45 FR 25066, Apr. 14, 1980; 45 FR 70276, Oct. 23, 1980; 48 FR 31608, July 8, 1983; 48 FR 42820, Sept. 20, 1983; 54 FR 38153, Sept. 14, 1989; 59 FR 11204, Mar. 10, 1994; 64 FR 48566, Sept. 7, 1999; 65 FR 49509, Aug. 14, 2000]

§ 21.30 Raptor propagation permits.

(a) *Permit requirement.* A raptor propagation permit is required before any person may take, possess, transport, import, purchase, barter, or offer to sell, purchase, or barter any raptor, raptor egg, or raptor semen for propagation purposes.

(b) *Application procedures.* Submit application for raptor propagation permits to the appropriate Regional Director (Attention: Migratory bird permit office). You can find addresses for the Regional Directors in 50 CFR 2.2. Each application must contain the general information and certification required in Sec. 13.12(a) of this subchapter, and the following additional information:

(1) A statement indicating the purpose(s) for which a raptor propagation permit is sought and, where applicable, the scientific or educational objectives of the applicant;

(2) A statement indicating whether the applicant has been issued a State permit authorizing raptor propagation (include name of State, permit number, and expiration date);

(3) A statement fully describing the nature and extent of the applicant's experience with raptor propagation or handling raptors;

(4) A description of each raptor the applicant possesses or will acquire for propagation purposes to include the species, age (if known), sex (if known), date of acquisition, source, and raptor marker number;

(5) A description of each raptor the applicant possesses for purposes other than raptor propagation to include the species, age (if known), sex (if known), date of acquisition, source, raptor marker number, and purpose for which it is possessed;

(6) A description and photographs of the facilities and equipment to be used by the applicant including the dimensions of any structures intended for housing the birds;

(7) A statement indicating whether the applicant requests authority to take raptors or raptor eggs from the wild.

(c) *Issuance criteria.* Upon receiving an application completed in accordance with paragraph (b) of this section, the Director will decide whether a permit should be issued. In making this decision, the Director shall consider, in addition to the general criteria in Sec 13.21(b) of this chapter, the following factors:

(1) Whether an applicant's raptor propagation facilities are adequate for the number and species of raptors to be held under the permit.

(2) Whether propagation is authorized by the State in which the propagation will occur, and if authorized, whether the applicant has any required State propagation permit.

(3) Whether the applicant is at least 18 years old with a minimum of 2 years experience handling raptors, and if the applicant requests authority to propagate endangered or threatened species, whether the applicant is at least 23 years old with a minimum of 7 years experience handling raptors.

(4) If the applicant requests authority to take raptors or raptor eggs from the wild:

(i) Whether issuance of the permit would have a significant effect on any wild population of raptors;

(ii) Whether suitable captive stock is available; and

(iii) Whether wild stock is needed to enhance the genetic variability of captive stock.

(d) *Additional permit conditions.* In addition to the general conditions found in part 13 of this chapter, raptor propagation permits are subject to the following additional conditions:

(1) *Facilities.* Any tethered raptor possessed under this permit must be maintained in accordance with the Federal falconry standards for "facilities and equipment" described

in Sec. 21.29(g), unless a specific exception in writing is obtained. For untethered raptors, the breeding facilities must be soundly constructed and entirely enclosed with wood, wire netting, or other suitable material which provides a safe, health, environment. The design of such facilities and ancillary equipment must:

(i) Minimize the risk of injury by providing protection from predators, disturbances that would likely cause harm, extreme weather conditions, and collision with interior or perimeter construction materials and equipment such as support poles, windows, wire netting, perches, or lights;

(ii) Enhance sanitation by providing a well-drained floor, fresh air ventilation, source of light, fresh water for bathing and drinking, access for cleaning, and interior construction materials suitable for thorough cleaning or disinfection; and

(iii) Enhance the welfare and breeding success of the raptors by providing suitable perches, nesting and feeding sites, and observation ports or inspection windows during times when disturbance is felt to be undesirable.

(2) *Incubation of eggs.* Each permittee must notify the Director in writing within 5 days from the day the first egg is laid by any raptor held under a raptor propagation permit, but notice is not required more often than once every 60 days.

(3) *Marking requirement.* Unless otherwise specifically exempted, every raptor possessed for propagation, including all progeny produced pursuant to the permitted activity, must be banded in accordance with the following provisions:

(i) Except for captive-bred raptors lawfully marked with a seamless, numbered band provided by the Service, any raptor possessed for propagation purposes shall be banded with a permanent, non-reusable, numbered band issued by the Service.

(ii) Unless specifically exempted by the conditions of the raptor propagation permit, each captive-bred raptor produced under authority of a raptor propagation permit shall be banded within two (2) weeks of hatching with a numbered, seamless band provided by the Service, placed on the raptor's leg (*metatarsus*). In marking captive-bred raptors, permittees:

(A) Shall use a band with an opening (inside diameter) which is small enough to prevent its removal when the raptor is fully grown without causing serious injury to the raptor or damaging the bands integrity or one-piece construction;

(B) May band a raptor with more than one size band when the potential diameter of the raptor's leg at maturity cannot be determined at the time of banding;

(C) Shall remove all but one band from any raptor with more than one band before the raptor is five (5) weeks of age and return all bands removed to the issuing office.

(iii) No raptor taken from the wild, produced from an egg taken from the wild, or produced from an egg from any source other than bred in captivity under authority of a raptor propagation permit may be banded with a numbered seamless band issued by the Service.

(iv) No permittee under this section may band any raptor with any band issued or authorized by the Service unless that raptor is lawfully possessed by the permittee.

(4) *Taking Raptors or Raptor Eggs from the Wild.* Any permit authorizing the permittee to take raptors or raptor eggs from the wild for propagation purposes is subject to the following additional restrictions:

(i) The State or foreign country in which the raptors or raptor eggs are taken must authorize the permittee in writing to take raptors or raptor eggs from the wild for propagation purposes;

(ii) No raptor listed in Sec. 17.11 of this chapter as "endangered" or "threatened" may be taken from the wild without first obtaining the proper permit under part 17 of this chapter; and

(iii) No raptor or raptor egg may be taken from the wild except in accordance with State law.

(5) *Transfer, purchase, sale, or barter of raptors, raptor eggs, or raptor semen.*

(i) A permittee may transfer any lawfully possessed raptor, raptor egg, or raptor semen to another permittee or transfer any raptor to a falconer who holds a valid State falconry permit if no money or other consideration is involved.

(ii) A permittee may transfer, purchase, sell, or barter any raptor which is banded with a numbered seamless marker provided or authorized by the Service, subject to the following conditions:

(A) When the permittee purchases from, sells to, or barter with any person in the U.S., that person must be authorized under this part to purchase, sell, or barter captive-bred raptors;

(B) When the permittee purchases from or barter with any person in a foreign country, that person must be authorized by the competent wildlife management authority of the foreign country in which the transaction occurs to sell or barter captive-bred raptors; and

(C) When the permittee transfers to, sells to or barter with any person in a foreign country, that person must be authorized to possess, purchase or barter captive-bred raptors by the competent wildlife management authority of his/her country of residence or domicile and the same wildlife management authority must certify in writing that the recipient is an experienced falconer or raptor propagator who is required to maintain any raptors in his/her possession under conditions that are comparable to the conditions under which a permittee must maintain raptors under Sec. 21.29 or Sec. 21.30. No certification is required if the competent wildlife management authority itself is the recipient of captive-bred raptors for conservation purposes.

(iii) No raptor may be traded, transferred, purchased, sold, or bartered until it is two weeks old and only after it is properly banded with a nonreuseable marker provided or authorized by the Service, unless it is transferred, sold, or bartered to a State or Federal wildlife management agency for conservation purposes.

(iv) A permittee may purchase, sell, or barter semen collected from any captive-bred raptor.

(v) A permittee may not purchase, sell or barter any raptor eggs, any raptors taken from the wild, any raptor semen collected from the wild, or any raptors hatched from eggs taken from the wild.

(6) *Use of Service form 3-186A.* No permittee may take, purchase, receive, or otherwise acquire, sell, trade, barter, transfer, or otherwise dispose of any raptor unless such permittee submits a form 3-186A (Migratory Bird Acquisition/Disposition Report), completed in accordance with the instructions on the form, to the issuing office within five (5) calendar days of any such transfer. Provided, that a permittee does not have to submit a form 3-186A (Migratory Bird Acquisition/Disposition Report) to report the acquisition of raptors hatched from eggs produced as a result of the permittee's propagation activities as long as these raptors remain in the possession of the permittee.

(7) *Documentation of lawful possession.* No raptor may be possessed under authority of a raptor propagation permit unless the permittee has a properly completed form 3-186A (Migratory Bird Acquisition/Disposition Report) for each bird possessed, except as provided in paragraph (d)(5) of this section.

(8) *Temporary possession.* A raptor possessed under authority of a raptor propagation permit may be temporarily held by a person other than the permittee only if that person is otherwise authorized to possess raptors, and only if the raptor is accompanied at all times by the properly completed form 3-186A (Migratory Bird Acquisition/Disposition Report) designating the permittee as the possessor of record and by a signed, dated statement from the permittee authorizing the temporary possession.

(9) *Sale, purchase, barter.* A permittee may not sell, purchase, barter, or offer to sell, purchase, or barter any raptor unless the raptor is marked on the metatarsus by a seamless, numbered band supplied by the Service.

(10) *Transfer to another.* A permittee may not receive or otherwise acquire from, may not transfer or otherwise dispose of to, and may not loan to or temporarily place with another person any raptor unless that person is authorized to acquire, possess, and dispose of such raptors under a valid permit issued pursuant to this part and part 13 or as permitted by regulations in this part.

(11) *Use in falconry.* A permittee may use a raptor possessed for propagation in the sport of falconry only if such use is designated in both the propagation permit and the permittee's falconry permit.

(12) *Interspecific hybridization.* Hybridization between species (interspecific hybridization) is authorized only if each raptor produced by interspecific hybridization is either imprinted on humans (hand-raised in isolation from the sight of other raptors from two weeks of age until it is fully feathered) or surgically sterilized.

(13) *Possession of dead raptors, non-viable eggs, nests, and feathers.*

(i) Upon the death of any raptor held under permit, a permittee must remove the marker and immediately return

it to the Director. The carcass must be destroyed immediately, unless the permittee requests authorization from the Director to retain possession of it. A permittee who has obtained written authorization from the Director to retain possession of the carcass may transfer it to any other person authorized by the Service to possess it, provided no money or other consideration is involved.

(ii) A permittee may possess addled or blown eggs, nests, and feathers from raptors held under permit and may transfer any of these items to any other person authorized by the Service to possess them provided no money or other consideration is involved.

(14) *Intentional release to the wild.*

(i) A permittee must obtain written authorization from the Director and the Director of the wildlife conservation department of the State in which release to the wild is proposed before intentionally releasing any raptor to the wild. The raptor marker must be removed from each bird and immediately returned to the Director. A Federal bird band must be attached to each raptor by a person designated by the Director before its release.

(ii) No raptor produced by interspecific hybridization may be intentionally released to the wild.

(15) *Record keeping.* A permittee must maintain complete and accurate records of all operations, to include the following:

(i) Acquisition of raptors, eggs, or semen from sources other than production.

(A) Description of stock:

(1) Species, sex, age of each (if applicable),

(2) Genotype-natal area (geographical breeding site or area that captive stock represents, e.g., Colville River, Alaska; unknown; migrant taken in Maryland, etc.), and

(3) Marker number (if applicable).

(B) Type of stock (including number or amount):

(1) Semen,

(2) Egg, or

(3) Bird.

(C) How acquired:

(1) Purchase, barter, or transfer (include the purchase price or a description of any other consideration involved), or

(2) Taken from the wild.

(D) Date acquired: month, day, and year.

(E) From whom or where stock acquired:

(1) Name, address, and permit number of seller, barterer, or transferor; or

(2) Location where stock taken from the wild.

(ii) Disposition of raptors, eggs, or semen.

(A) Description of stock:

(1) Species, sex, age of each (if applicable),

(2) Genotype-natal area (geographical breeding site or area that captive stock represents, e.g., Colville River, Alaska; unknown; migrant taken in Maryland, etc.), and

(3) Marker number (if applicable).

(B) Type of stock (including number or amount):

(1) Semen,

(2) Egg, or

(3) Bird.

(C) Manner of disposition:

(1) Sale, barter, or transfer (include the sale price or a description of any other consideration involved),

(2) Live loss,

(3) Intentional release to the wild, or

(4) Death.

(D) Date of disposition: month, day, and year.

(E) To whom or where stock disposed:

(1) Name, address, and permit number of purchaser, barterer, or transferee, or

(2) Description and location of other disposition.

(iii) Production and pedigree record.

(A) Mother and father(s):

(1) Species,

(2) Genotype-natal area, and

(3) Marker number.

(B) Insemination:

(1) Natural,

(2) Artificial, or

(3) Combined.

(C) Eggs laid:

(1) Total,

(2) First date, and

(3) Last date.

(D) Eggs hatched:

(1) Total,

(2) First date, and

(3) Last date.

(E) Young raised to 2 weeks of age:

(1) Total produced, and

(2) Marker number and date marked for each raptor.

(16) *Annual report*. A permittee must submit an annual report by January 31 of each year for the preceding year to the Director. The report must include the following information for each species possessed by the permittee:

(i) Number of raptors possessed as of December 31 (including the species, marker number, sex, and age of each raptor).

(ii) Number of females laying eggs.

(iii) Number of eggs laid.

(iv) Number of eggs hatched.

(v) Number of young raised to 2 weeks of age.

(vi) Number of raptors purchased, sold, bartered, received, or transferred (including the species, marker number, sex, and age of each raptor) the date of the transaction, and the name, address and permit number of each purchaser, seller, barterer, transferor, or transferee.

(e) *Term of permit*. A raptor propagation permit issued or renewed under this part expires on the date designated on the face of the permit unless amended or revoked, but the term of the permit shall not exceed three (3) years from the date of issuance or renewal. [48 FR 31608, July 8, 1983, as amended at 49 FR 9736, Mar. 15, 1984; 54 FR 38154, Sept. 14, 1989; 63 FR 52637, Oct. 1, 1998]

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